bal villages where the water scarcity is most acute;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) In order to meet the requirements of drinking water in rural areas of Madhya Pradesh, affected by the current drought, an *ad hoc* Central assistance of Rs. 4 crores has been released. This is over and above the normal Central assistance given under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). This assistance will enable the Madhya Pradesh Government to instal tubewells in 100 villages covering a population of 50,000 and instal 1800 handpumps in 1500 villages to augment the water availability for a population of 2.7 lakhs. The assistance would also finance tankers' supply to 400 villages, benefiting a population of 1.2 lakhs. Assistance was also extended to Madhya Pradesh for meeting the rural drinking water needs caused by the last year's drought. The ceilings of expenditure sanctioned were in two instalments of Rs. 6.15 crores and Rs. 1.765 crores respectively.

(b) and (c) Special assistance to any State is given depending upon the severity of the drought situation, irrespective of the fact whether the affected area falls under the hilly tribal region or not. However, in the on-going rural water supply programmes under the State sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) and Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), special attention is being given to hilly tribal areas. Under the ARWSP, coverage of Scheduled Castes|Scheduled Tribes villages| habitations have been given first priority. Earmarking of funds under ARWSP for exclusive coverage of SC|ST population is also being done and the coverage is monitored.

Cost of production of cotton

*373. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of production of one quintal of cotton in 1984-85 was about Rs. 360 in Punjab and Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) what was the cost of production in Gujarat and Maharashtra in the same year and if it was higher there, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) Based on the data collected under the Comprehensive Scheme for Studying the Cost of Cultivation/ Production of Principal Crops in India, the per quintal cost of production of cotton works out of Rs. 357.28 and Rs. 361.52 in 1984-85 in Punjab and Madhya Pradesh respectively.

(b) Although, cost of production estimates of cotton for Gujarat and Maharashtra in 84-85 have not been generated based on the cost estimates during the previous three years i.e. 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84, it has been observed that the cost of production of cotton in Gujarat and Maharashtra have generally been higher than those of Punjab and Madhya Pradesh.

Preponement of the Procurement Season for Kharif Crop in Punjab

*374. SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to prepone the Kharif Procurement Season in Punjab to 15th September from 1st October; and

(b) what is the anticipated arrival of paddy in Punjab markets during September?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) The matter is under consideration.

(b) Market arrivals of paddy in Punjab during September would depend on a number of factors like behaviour of the monsoon, condition of the crop etc and it is difficult to anticipate at this stage

Meeting of the Wakf Board

*375. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of WELFARE bes pleased to state:

(a) when the last meeting between the State Wakf Ministers and the Chairman of the Wakf Board was convened by the Central Government;

(b) what decisions were taken in the said meeting; and

(c) by when the next meeting of the Board is likely to be convened and what are the agenda for that meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI): (a) and (b) A meeting of the State Wakf Ministers and Chairman of the State Wakf Boards was convened by Minister of State for Welfare on 24th June, 1986 to discuss the problems and exchange information with a view to improving the administration and functioning of the Wakfs. Although no formal decisions were to be taken by this meeting, however a number of suggestions were made at the meeting. These have been forwarded to various State Governments and State Wakf Boards for examination and appropriate action on the suggestions concerning them.

(c) There is no fixed periodicity for such meeting. Agenda is fixed only when a meeting is to be held.

Provision of Emergency Exits in the high rise buildings

*376. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to lay certain norms regarding the provision of emergency exits, fire escapes and other alternative provisions to save time for escape in case of fire and accidents in high rise buildings, applicable throughout the country; and

(b) if so, whether the same provision are likely to be prescribed for all places of public entertainment and gatherings in the country?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) and (b) Local bodies such as municipalities/ corporations make provisions in their Building Bye-laws etc. regarding fire safety measures in all buildings including high rise buildings and places of entertainment and public gatherings. National Building Code of India has a chapter on the issue in general and specific provisions which outline the fire protection requirements of buildings more than 15 metre in height.

Drinking water in Metropolitan cities

*377. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the per capita availability of drinking (Potable) water in Metropolitan cities of Bombayy, Madras, Calcutta nda Delhi;

(b) whether the target fixed by the Planning Commission has been achieved in this regard; and

(c) if not, what steps, have been taken to bring the level of drinking water supply to the basic requirement set up by the Planning Commission?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MOHSIN/